

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An H.323 endpoint, comprising:
 2 an H.323 controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media
 3 communication with another H.323 endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with
 4 another H.323 endpoint;
 5 wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier
 6 for address resolution during a media communication, said communication
 7 domain identifier permitting use of virtual domains associated with a single
 8 gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of
 9 virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said
 10 communication domain identifier.

- 1 2. An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323
 2 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of a called party
 3 during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode.

- 1 3. An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323
 2 controller provides said gatekeeper with said CDI during an address resolution
 3 phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode

- 1 4. An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323
 2 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more
 3 parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

- 1 5. An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323
 2 endpoint comprises a client terminal or gateway.

- 1 6. A communication endpoint for use in a network comprising:
 2 a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media
 3 communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another
 4 endpoint;
 5 wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying

6 a virtual domain associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain
7 associated with multiple gatekeepers.

1 7. A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said
2 controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain to said
3 gatekeeper during an address resolution phase.

1 8. A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said
2 controller is configured to access said database for a virtual domain identifier in a
3 direct signaling mode.

1 9. A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said
2 controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain during
3 execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

1 10. A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 7, wherein said
2 communications endpoint comprises a client terminal or a gateway.

1 11. A telecommunications system, comprising:
2 a packet-switched network;
3 a plurality of endpoints coupled to said packet switched network;
4 a gatekeeper coupled to said packet switched network;
5 wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define
6 virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated
7 with multiple gatekeepers.

1 12. A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said
2 endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving
3 associated virtual domains during a call setup procedure

1 13. A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said

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2 communication domain identification controllers include a database of
3 communication domain identifiers (CDI).

1 14. A telecommunications system according to claim 13, wherein said
2 communication domain identification controllers are configured to provide said
3 CDIs to said gatekeeper during a call setup operation.

1 15. A telecommunication system according to claim 13, wherein said
2 communication domain identification controllers are configured to use said CDIs
3 to resolve an address of a called party during a call setup operation.

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1 16. A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said
2 endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving
3 associated virtual domains during execution of one or more domain-restricted
4 functions.

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1 17. A method for operating a telecommunication system having at least one
2 gatekeeper and a plurality of endpoints, comprising:
3 storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said
4 plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with a
5 virtual domain associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and
6 accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call
7 is made.

1 18. A method according to claim 17, including providing said CDI to said
2 gatekeeper so said gatekeeper can resolve an address of a called party.

1 19. A method according to claim 18, said storing including storing a CDI of a
2 plurality of users with a single endpoint.

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1 20. A method according to claim 17, further comprising executing one or more

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein said CDI identifies an association of said endpoints with a virtual domain associated with multiple of said at least one gatekeepers.

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